



PRIMARY SOURCE

BOX 1.1 Hugh Last's assessment of Michael Rostovtzeff's *The Social and Economic History of the Roman Empire*, in his obituary for Rostovtzeff from the *Journal of Roman Studies* 43 (1953): 133–4, quote from 133.

Rostovtzeff's interpretation of Roman imperial history is to some extent misconceived . . . Of the achievements of Rome none is greater than the creation of the *Corpus Iuris* [Roman law] . . . and though Rostovtzeff was almost thirty-three and had already been at Berlin when [nineteenth-century German classical scholar Theodor] Mommsen died, he never showed himself so far a disciple as to seek access to the Roman mind through the Private Law, which is its fullest and most detailed expression.